

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – 5:00 pm
Upstairs Meeting Room – Montague Town Hall
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Melanie Ames Zamojski, Michael Nelson

Staff: Health Director, Daniel Wasiuk & Board of Health Clerk, Anne Stuart

Guests: Greenfield Recorder, Julian Mendoza, Montague Reporter, Jeff Singleton, and Dave Harmon

Meeting being recorded.

Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Minutes: August 18, 2021

- After a brief discussion of the August minutes from the joint meeting with the Select board the vote was taken.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the August minutes as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson.*

Motion passes.

Recent Director's Report:

- 55 Park Street – entire building has been condemned due to significant damage caused by fire. Daniel and David Jensen (filling in for Bill Ketchen, Building Inspector) did a walk through together. The BOH is allowing the tenants to retrieve any property that they want.
- 19 Sherman Drive – continued non-compliance. Wayne is running a business from this property making money from scrap metal. Dan Hall from MA DEP is aware of the situation along with the Fire, Building, Board of Health Departments and the State Fire Marshall. DEP can apply rules and regulations for running a scrap yard which can be upwards of \$10,000 per month. The property owner has BOH fines that will again be attached to property taxes if compliance continues to not be met.
- 20 Millers Falls Road Daniel has been in contact with the owner who has been making efforts to remove mixed debris and plans to get a dumpster at some point to help with the cleanup issues as financially it is a hardship.
- 121 Turners Falls Road Daniel has been in contact with this owner regarding the extensive amount of mixed debris and has given more time but feels the owner is running a business out of the property and is still in non-compliance.
- Barbes in the Woods Event a food vendor Holyoke Hummus had a denial for a yearly mobile due to the unsanitary conditions of the unity. A letter was sent and a full unit inspection will be needed before any event.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the recent Director's Report as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes***

Recent Nurse's Report:

- Vaccines Flu Season 2021-2022 Fluzone 70 doses – were reserved and Anne back up vaccine coordinator took in the vaccine when it arrived on September 8, 2021.
- Patricia Iverson, MD will hold the standing orders for the nurse to administer flu shots at the Great Falls Festival under a tent on Avenue A.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the recent Nurse's Report as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes***

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Discussion: Covid-19 Mask Requirements

- Discussion took place regarding mask use and the COVID -19 numbers. Daniel Wasiuk shared that the EMT Team (Steve Ellis, Fire Chiefs, Building Inspector and BOH) met and were in alignment to require mask use in municipal buildings only.
- Dave Harmon expressed several concerns & questions regarding the numbers
 - How safe are the employees? – There have been no concerns brought to either the staff in the BOH office or any member of the board regarding feeling unsafe. All employees have access and are currently welcome to wear masks.
 - Are numbers going down? In looking at virus trends and the fact the community is moving in doors due to the changing of seasons and the startup of schools numbers will and have increased. The Director will take into account the exterior influences for disease transmission and the challenges that are presented not only for COVID-19 times but any time.
 - What was the decision of the BOH? The BOH recommendations were to concentrate on numbers in town and to recommend to the Selectboard to institute mask use in all town municipal buildings. They did not recommend to do a town-wide mask mandate.
- Jeff Singleton
 - Made known that he felt the numbers that are reported should be based on Franklin County and not just the Town of Montague.
 - Jeff also wanted to know the threshold for a town-wide mandate which was discussed at the meeting. The EMT and Steve Ellis came to an agreement and used the figure of cases 25 and over which would then put Montague into the “red zone” and thus warrant a town-wide mask mandate.
- After some discussion the Montague Board of Health members recommendation for COVID-19 Mask Requirements was for Municipal Buildings only and not for a full mandate for the town. This recommendation will go in front of the Montague Selectboard on Monday for a final decision.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to recommend a mask mandate for municipal buildings only at this time to be review by the Montague Selectboard at their next meeting. Seconded by Michael Nelson.*

Motion passes.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Melanie mentioned that the CTC agreement has not been finalized and that cases are still coming in that need the attention and follow through. Currently the CTC is still being used but there is Cares Act money now available for Cheryl Volpe if needed to concentrate of COVID -19 issues. In discussion with the members they agreed that an increase in the nurse hours by 5-7 hours a week depending on the work load would be warranted.
- Melanie also brought up the idea of a full time nurse for the Town of Montague in the future.
- Michael Nelson took off his BOH hat and put on the Event Coordinator hat for the Great Falls Festival to be held on October 23, 2021 in downtown Turners Falls. Michael brought up that he wanted the feedback of the BOH members on the event due to the recommendation of the mask mandate. The members were in agreement that the event should go on as planned and that as Event Coordinator he will have to follow the guidelines as the unfold and change over the next month to see how it will impact the event.
- There was also discussion to have Wendy Bogusz help with the website and that it would have to be done after work hours and we would have to pay her.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept an increase in the Town Nurse hours by 5-7 hours per week based on the work load and availability of Cares Act money. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes***

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept to pay Wendy Bogusz as needed for her assistance for the website. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes***

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Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn at 6:07 PM. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski
Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned: 6:07 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

August Minutes
Directors Report
Nurse Report